and continuous upgradation of networked system. The total amount received on this account is being collected from the Zonal Railways.

Procedure for new recruitments in Railways

3508. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the procedure of new recruitments in Railways;

(b) whether there is great discontentment among the people of Orissa on the recruitment of Group 'D' and 'C staff in East Coast Railway;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether G.M. of any zonal office has the power to appoint people as per his own choice through interview?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Group 'C and 'D' posts on the railways are filled up through selection from open market through the agency of Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) and Railway Recruitment Cells (RRCs) respectively. Vacancies to be filled up have to be given wide publicity including publication in the Employment News, national and local dailies and all those who apply are considered for employment on the railways. This procedure is in conformity with the guidelines laid down by Department of Personnel and Training (which is the nodal department) pursuant to the directives of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. No regional or provincial bias is permissible while making recruitment in Railways.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Issue regarding providing of employment in Group 'C and 'D' posts on East Coast to the persons who are not residents of Orissa has been raised in State Assembly by several Members.

(d) General Manager (G.M.) of a Zonal railway is empowered to engage persons as substitutes in administrative exigencies.

Vacancy in group 'C and 'D'

3509. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts remained vacant in 'C and 'D' category during the period 2004-05 to 2007-08, year and category-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Apex Court had directed to regularize the services of catering employees and commission vendors in Railways on as and when vacancy basis;

(c) if so, when the verdict was given by the Hon'ble Apex Court; and

(d) the details of the verdict thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Number of posts remained vacant in 'C and 'D' category during the period 2004-05 to 2007-08, year and category-wise is as under:—